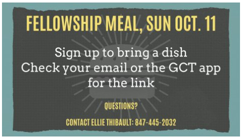
Grace Community Church of Topsail

October 4, 2026: Who Will Sit at the Table? Matthew 5:11-12

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL



FELLOWSHIP MEAL, SUN OCT. 11

Sign up to bring a dish
Check your email or the GCT app
for the link

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT ELLIE THIBAULT: 847-445-2032

Grab a shoe box in the foyer.

Cutoff date to receive shoe boxes is November 15th

National Collection Week | Nov. 16–23, 2026

IT'S ALL ABOUT
JESUS!
PACK A SHOEBOX!

Psalm 97 ESV

> The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
>   let the many coastlands be glad!
>   Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
>   righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
>   Fire goes before him
>   and...

Continue reading »

He is Our God

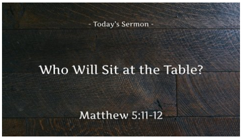
You Are God Alone (Not A God)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Is He Worthy

Kingdom Culture

HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH



- Today's Sermon -

Who Will Sit at the Table?

Matthew 5:11-12

Ephesians 2:12 ESV

> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Continue reading »

Ephesians 3:1–6 ESV

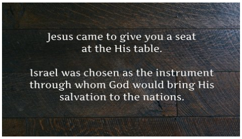
For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly....

Continue reading »

Matthew 5:11–12 ESV

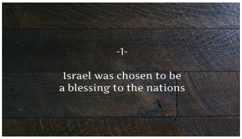
"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Continue reading »



Jesus came to give you a seat
at the His table.

Israel was chosen as the instrument
through whom God would bring His
salvation to the nations.



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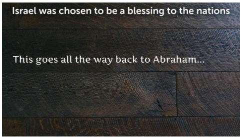
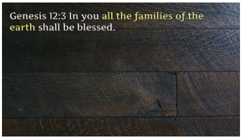
Israel was chosen to be
a blessing to the nations

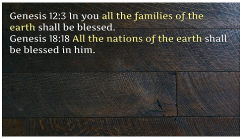


Israel was chosen to be a blessing to the nations

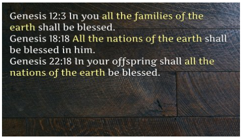
This goes all the way back to Abraham...



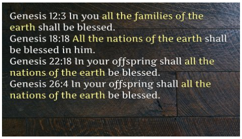
Genesis 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.



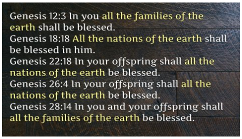
Genesis 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
Genesis 18:18 All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.



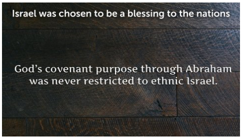
Genesis 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
Genesis 18:18 All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.
Genesis 22:18 In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.



Genesis 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
Genesis 18:18 All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.
Genesis 22:18 In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.
Genesis 26:4 In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

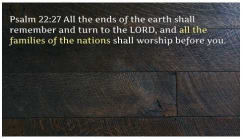


Genesis 12:3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
Genesis 18:18 All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.
Genesis 22:18 In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.
Genesis 26:4 In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.
Genesis 28:14 In you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

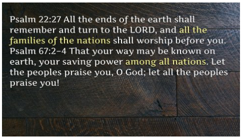


Israel was chosen to be a blessing to the nations

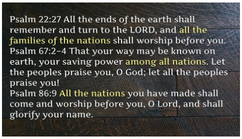
God's covenant purpose through Abraham was never restricted to ethnic Israel.



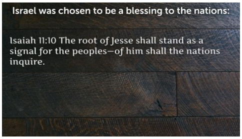
Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.



Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
Psalm 67:2–4 That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

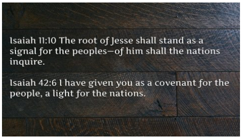


Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
Psalm 67:2–4 That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
Psalm 86:9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.



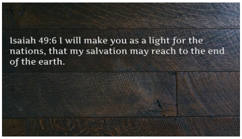
Israel was chosen to be a blessing to the nations:

Isaiah 11:10 The root of Jesse shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire.

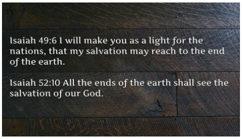


Isaiah 11:10 The root of Jesse shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire.

Isaiah 42:6 I have given you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.

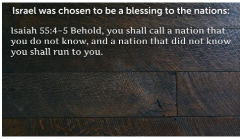


Isaiah 49:6 I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.



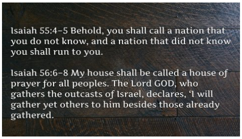
Isaiah 49:6 I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 52:10 All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.



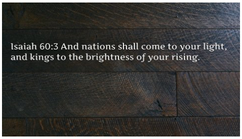
Israel was chosen to be a blessing to the nations:

Isaiah 55:4–5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you.

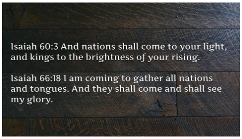


Isaiah 55:4–5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you.

Isaiah 56:6–8 My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, 'I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.

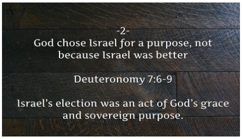


Isaiah 60:3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.



Isaiah 60:3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 66:18 I am coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory.



-2-

God chose Israel for a purpose, not because Israel was better

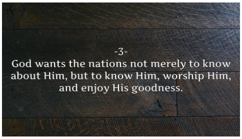
Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Israel's election was an act of God's grace and sovereign purpose.

Deuteronomy 7:6–9 ESV

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people...

Continue reading »



-3-

God wants the nations not merely to know about Him, but to know Him, worship Him, and enjoy His goodness.

Isaiah 49:5 ESV

And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has...

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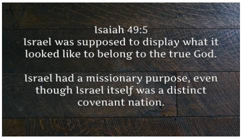


Isaiah 49:5

Israel was supposed to display what it looked like to belong to the true God.

Israel had a missionary purpose, even though Israel itself was a distinct covenant nation.

-4-
Jesus fulfills Israel's covenant promise and mission to the nations

Matthew 8:11
Isaiah 49:5

Matthew 8:11 ESV

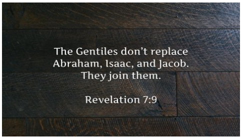
> I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,

Continue reading »

Isaiah 25:6–8 ESV

> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
> a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
> of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
> And he will swallow up on this mountain the...

Continue reading »

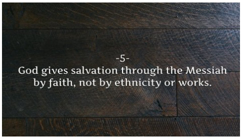

The Gentiles don't replace Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
They join them.

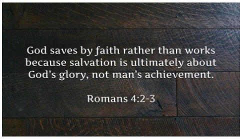
Revelation 7:9

Revelation 7:9 ESV

> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Continue reading »


-5-
God gives salvation through the Messiah by faith, not by ethnicity or works.

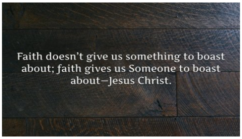

God saves by faith rather than works because salvation is ultimately about God's glory, not man's achievement.

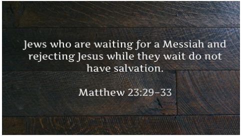
Romans 4:2-3

Romans 4:2–3 ESV

> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Continue reading »


Faith doesn't give us something to boast about; faith gives us Someone to boast about—Jesus Christ.



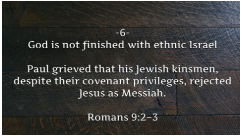
Jews who are waiting for a Messiah and rejecting Jesus while they wait do not have salvation.

Matthew 23:29–33

Matthew 23:29–33 ESV

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of...

Continue reading »



-6-

God is not finished with ethnic Israel

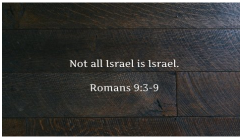
Paul grieved that his Jewish kinsmen, despite their covenant privileges, rejected Jesus as Messiah.

Romans 9:2–3

Romans 9:2–3 ESV

that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Continue reading »



Not all Israel is Israel.

Romans 9:3-9

Romans 9:3–9 ESV

For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship,...

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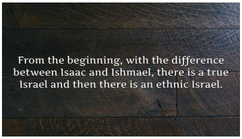
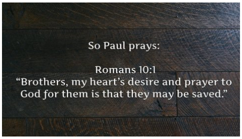


From the beginning, with the difference between Isaac and Ishmael, there is a true Israel and then there is an ethnic Israel.



So Paul prays:

Romans 10:1
“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”

And then he knows that only some will be:

Romans 9:27
Romans 11:13–14

Romans 9:27 ESV

And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,

Continue reading »

Romans 11:13–14 ESV

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.

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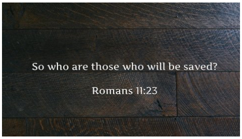

So who are those who will be saved?

Romans 11:23

Romans 11:23 ESV

And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

Continue reading »

There will be a great turning of Israel to Jesus her Messiah.

Romans 11:25–26

Romans 11:25–26 ESV

> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,...

Continue reading »

The Point

Only through Jesus will that salvation come to any Jew or any other nation at any time.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18
2 Corinthians 4:4

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2 Corinthians 3:12–18 ESV

> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read...

Continue reading »

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2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Continue reading »

Our Response

Reminds us that we have been brought into a story God has unfolded through Israel, the Gentiles, and ultimately Christ.

Produces humility.

Makes us grateful, not proud.

Gives us confidence in God’s faithfulness.

Produces gratitude for our spiritual heritage.

Gives us hope for people who seem far from God.

Gives us hope that God is not finished with Israel.

Gives us patience with God's work.

Moves us to worship.

Kingdom Culture

HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH

Communion

Ephesians 2:13–16 ESV

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of...

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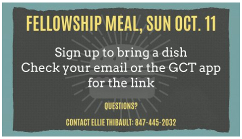
I Stand Amazed (My Saviour's Love)

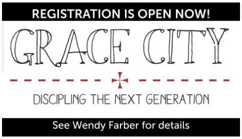


FELLOWSHIP MEAL, SUN OCT. 11

Sign up to bring a dish
Check your email or the GCT app
for the link

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT ELLIE THIBAULT: 847-445-2032

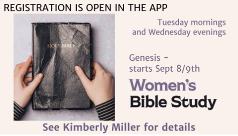


REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

See Wendy Farber for details



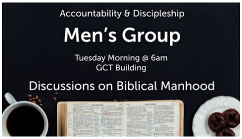
REGISTRATION IS OPEN IN THE APP

Tuesday mornings
and Wednesday evenings

Genesis –
starts Sept 8/9th

Women's
Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details



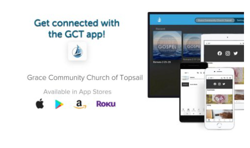
Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
GCT Building

Discussions on Biblical Manhood

Volunteers Needed for Monthly Baby Pantry Ministry



Get connected with the GCT app!

Grace Community Church of Topsail

Available in App Stores

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am

GCT Business Directory

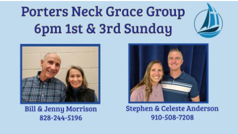
Looking for a handyman?
Need your house power washed?
Need a babysitter?
Need an Uber?

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members

Yellow Pages
New! Easier to use
Great days out
Local maps

GRACE GROUPS

Ready to Grow in GRACE Together? Contact any of our Grace Group Leaders for More Information



Porters Neck Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bill & Jenny Morrison
828-244-5196

Stephen & Celeste Anderson
910-508-7208

Sidbury Grace Group
1st Sunday at 5pm & 3rd Friday at 6.30pm

Bobby & Wendy Rosinbaum
910-602-0121

Rob & Harriet Sullivan
919-917-5988

Washington Acres Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

David & Shawna Hirt
630-301-2953

Warren & Miriam Rich
910-622-1711

Country Club Drive Grace Group
6pm Every Friday

Tom & Kimberly Miller
920-737-6445

Max & Melissa Luke
910-619-0168

North Hampstead Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Friday

Jim & Deborah Farmer
910-470-0424

Evan & Micaela Head
910-547-1999

North Belvedere Grace Group
5pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bob & Necey Highet
910-785-1247

Tom & Barbara Sheldon
410-610-7123

Surf City/Holly Ridge Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

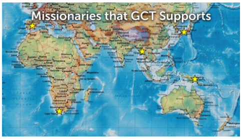
Joey & Tianna Rutledge
309-202-2189

Sneads Ferry Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

Stephen & Teresa Smith
360-969-9288

Joshua & Kay Sanders
910-741-9004

Missionaries that GCT Supports



Pray for our Missionaires

Brett &
Taylor Ray
Japan

Steve &
Rissa Curtis
Asia

Lauren &
Pablo
Spain

Job & Eunice
Mayanmar

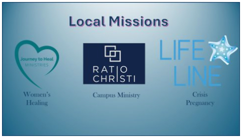
Pray for our Missionaires

Warren
Rich
Global

Meghanne
Brunsink
Japan

Martin
McCrory
Asia

Laurel
Brunsink
YWAM



Local Missions

Journey to Heal
MINISTRIES

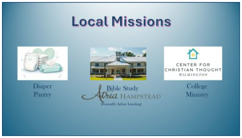
Women's
Healing

RATIO
CHRISTI

Campus Ministry

LIFE
LINE

Crisis
Pregnancy



Local Missions

Diaper
Pantry

Bible Study
Atria HAMPSTEAD
(Formally Arbor Landing)

CENTER FOR
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON

College
Ministry

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

Grace Community Church of Topsail

11 members